

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended herein. Support for the Amendment is found, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 13-14 of the specification and Figures 6 and 8. No new matter is presented.

Entry of the Amendment after final rejection is proper since the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance or at least reduces the issues for appeal.

I. Response to Claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Schwinne '362.

In response to the Amendment filed March 30, 2006 and the arguments presented therein, the Examiner takes the position that energy absorbing zones 2, 5 and 11 are concentric relative to the device of Schwinne '326.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is amended herein and presently recites a roll support member that is used for suspending in a packaging case a roll-form recording material (1) wound around a core (2). The roll support member comprises a four corner-cut square flange portion (5, 30) having a thickness and an insertion portion (4, 20) that projects cylindrically from substantially the center of the flange portion and is inserted into one end of the core. The flange portion (5, 30) and the insertion portion (4, 20) are formed integrally. The side of the flange portion (5, 30) from which the insertion portion projects is a flat face (6a, 32). The side (6b, 39) of the flange portion opposite to the flat face (6a, 32) is provided with a plurality of concentric ribs (51, 52, 53, 54, 55) forming in sequence a plurality of energy absorbing space zones (60, 61, 62) which are *disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion*. The outer peripheral side (5a, 37) of the flange portion (5, 30) has a height that is no greater than the height of the ribs.

As illustrated by Figures 6 and 8 and described in the present specification in the paragraph bridging pages 13-14, the energy absorbing zones comprise a first energy absorbing zone 60, second

energy absorbing zone 61, and an outermost energy absorbing zone 62. That is, regions sandwiched by two adjacent ribs, among a first circular rib 51, a second circular rib 52, a third circular rib 54, and the outer peripheral side 37, which are disposed on the flange plate substantially concentrically, form in sequence the first, second and outermost energy absorbing zones. The region sandwiched between the first circular rib 51 and the second circular rib 52 forms the first energy absorbing zone (60), the region sandwiched between the second circular rib (52) and the third circular rib (54) forms the second energy absorbing zone (61), and the region sandwiched between the third circular rib (54) and the outer peripheral side (37) forms the outermost energy absorbing zone (62).

Schwinne does not disclose, teach or suggest the elements of (1) a plurality of concentric ribs (2) forming in sequence a plurality of energy absorbing zones disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion as recited in the claims and as described and illustrated in the specification as mentioned above.

Schwinne discloses a suspension piece consisting of a hub portion and a flattened backing piece, the outer periphery of which is essentially octagonal in shape. As can be seen in Figures 1 and 4 of Schwinne, the side of the flange portion opposite to the flat face is provided with radially extending ribs 7 forming the zones 5 between the ribs. Between the zones 5, openings 11 are left in the plastic piece to reduce material costs and to lighten the piece. On the other hand, claim 1 as presently amended recites a plurality of concentric ribs forming in sequence a plurality of energy absorbing zones disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion. The suspension piece in Schwinne does not have a plurality of concentric ribs forming in sequence a plurality of energy absorbing zones disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion as recited in present claim 1. The examples of Schwinne, shown as Figures 1 and 6, have openings 11 and 33, respectively, whereas the presently claimed invention has a flange portion that has a flat face. Further, in Figure 1 of Schwinne, flanges 5

and 2 are not in sequence. Thus, for at least these reasons, Schwinne does not anticipate the present claims.

In addition the present invention is not rendered obvious by Schwinne. It is an object of the present invention to provide a roll support member which can effectively absorb an impact on the outer periphery of the roll support member in such a way that the impact is not transmitted to the inner energy absorbing space zones or is largely damped, so that the impact is not transmitted to the insertion portion. According to the present invention, this object is achieved by the fact that the plurality of energy absorbing space zones are arranged concentrically. Since according to the invention, these energy absorbing zones are arranged concentrically, the energy absorbing zones protect the roll-form recording material wound around the core from an impact. This facilitates the transportation and the shaping of the roll-form recording material in its housing. It is important, especially when the roll-form recording material is a light-sensitive material that the cover protecting the light-sensitive material is not damaged during transportation. If the cover protecting the light-sensitive material is damaged during transportation the cover can be deformed in such a way that a light enters the cover, so that the light-sensitive material is destroyed.

In Schwinne, the radial rib support 7 gives added strength to the hub assembly, but cannot effectively damp an impact on the outer periphery of the support member. According to the present invention, when an impact hits the roll support member as claimed in amended claim 1, the impact absorbed first by the outermost energy absorbing space zone may brake, the impact being largely attenuated and only a very small amount of the impact being transmitted to the inner part of the roll support member. By providing a plurality of these concentrically arranged zones, an impact from the outside can effectively be absorbed. Accordingly, the roll-form recording material can be protected in an effective way.

Even further, the present invention provides advantageous effects. The roll support member of the present invention has high resistance to drop impact even when a thin, low strength material is used and can be obtained with low cost. Furthermore, the present invention provides a roll support member that enables discrimination of the product type to be carried out automatically by means of a hole, etc., provided in the flange. Moreover, the roll support member of the present invention and a recording material package are resistant to drop impact even when no light-shielding flange is used at the end of the roll-form recording material. See specification, page 27. Schwinne does not teach, suggest or even recognize the advantages of the present invention.

In view of the above, Schwinne does not anticipate nor render obvious the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

II. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwinne in combination with JP 2002-244249.

Applicants respectfully submit that Schwinne does not teach or suggest all elements of amended claim 1 as discussed above. JP '249 like Schwinne, also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the elements of a plurality of concentric ribs forming in sequence a plurality of energy absorbing zones disposed substantially concentrically on the flange portion recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, JP '248 fails to remedy the deficiencies of Schwinne. Thus, even if combined, the claimed invention as recited in amended claim 1 would not have been achieved. Claims 7 and 8 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are distinguished over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is distinguished over the art of record for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 6, which depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly, are distinguished for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

IV. Conclusion

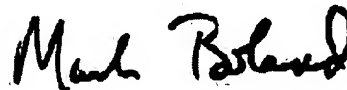
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No. 10/743,869

Atty. Docket No. Q79010

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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